during the current year (during April-December, 1994) are coffee, floriculture products, sports goods, marine products, plastics & linoleum, other ores and minerals, cotton yarn fabrics, made ups and project goods etc. Export Promotion is a continuous process. Country—specific and commodity—specific measures are taken to boost export. Export performance is continuously reviewed to improve performance.

MOU between India and USA

869. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an MOU with the United States of America for setting up an Indo-US commercial alliance;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the MOU and how India is going to benefit from the arrangement; and

(c) when is the alliance going to be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commercial Alliance provides a framework for increased interaction between private sector enterprises in both countries for expanding business relations. The Alliance will be headed by a Board made up of private sector representatives to be nominated by US Commerce Secretary and Indian Commerce Minister. The Board will have two co-chairman, one from each side. The Board will invite private sector representatives to join and organise Business Alliances, to discuss commercial co-operation in specific sectors and implement trade/business development programmes.

(c) The MOU on the Alliance was signed on 16-1-1995. In terms of the MOU, the Alliance is expected to become operative within 90 days of signing of the MOU.

Balanced Foreign Trade

870. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the April-December, 1994 period country's exports went up by 16.88 per cent but the imports rose by 23.92 per cent as reported in the Times of India dated 11-2-95; and

(b) when and how Government propose to balance the two policies to give a more or less balanced foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A prior balancing of imports and exports is not feasible under a liberalised trade regime. Increase in imports reflect increase in volume and unit value of a number of essential production inputs required by the Indian economy. As regards exports, various measures have been undertaken to promote exports including grant of tax-exemption on Export-profits, acess to cheaper Export-credits and market-development support for Export Promotion Councils, etc.

Coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

871. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 3527 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to extend coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the programmes of the Coffee Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Till date 10,404 ha. have been brought under coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. Under the 8th Plan, efforts are being made to expand coffee cultivation in non-traditional areas, in-